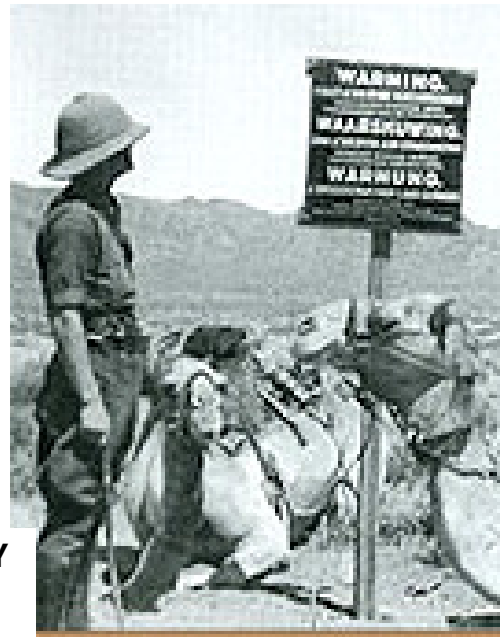




**GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE BY  
PAT HONEYBORNE**



Back in the bus, we drove past the farm Sandverhaar near Seeheim. The farm belonged to an eccentric old German, Ferdinand Gessert, who had settled in this country in 1894. He had lots of money and never married. Sandverhaar was once well watered by a mountain stream and was covered by camelthorn and other acacia trees. Gessert decided to cut the trees down and sell them for firewood to wood-starved Lüderitzbucht. Cutting the trees down was one thing, transporting the wood to the railway siding was another. He had never done much work in his life and his farm had no roads. He decided to build a road but it had to be dead straight. To that end he painted a mark on the windscreen of his lorry and tied a piece of coloured wool to the rim of his steering wheel. Keeping the wool in line with the mark on his windscreen, he forged through everything in his path until he got to the railway line. The railway siding was still five hundred metres up the line so he petitioned the railways to move it down to his road, which, surprisingly, they refused to do!

His raw brick lavatory was built over an old disused well. He kept his dynamite inside the lavatory. One Sunday afternoon the old man found that he could not use his lavatory as a swarm of bees had taken possession of it. To get rid of the bees he connected a long length of fuse to the dynamite, applied a match to the end and ran for shelter. The resulting explosion got rid of the lavatory, the dynamite and the bees!